Kashmir and entering into an agreement between India and Pakistan are two different issues. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have submitted and recently endorsed the recommendations of the State Autonomy Committee, which had been constituted by the State Government. The Report basically speaks of going back to pre-1953 status. The matter is under examination.

Kislay plantation case

2172. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2202 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether all the accused persons in the case have been arrested; and

(b) what steps were taken to see that the depositors get back their investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, four of the nine accused persons have been arrested and proceedings under sections 82/83 of Cr.[P.C. have been initiated against the remaining five accused persons.

(b) A piece of land measuring 7 canals and 14 marlas belonging to a relative of one of the accused has been attached under the order of the Court as the land in question was found to be purchased from the misappropriated amount of investors.

Sealing of borders with Pakistan and Nepal

2173. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to seal Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked and spent thereon;

(c) what would be the estimated requirement of fund for sealing the Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal border; and

(d) the progress made in sealing these borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) A total of 452 Kms. and 1035 Kms. of border with Pakistan has been fenced and flood lit in Punjab and Rajasthan sectors at a cost of Rs. 141.90 crores and Rs. 396.79 crores

respectively. Certain unfeasible riverine and shifting sand dune areas in Punjab and Rajasthan respectively have been left unfenced. Government have also approved a comprehensive proposal for construction of fencing and flood lighting on raised embankments, border roads, link road and Border Out Posts in 310 Kms. of Rann of Kutch area in Gujarat sector at an estimated cost of Rs. 380.00 crores. Work in 10 Kms. stretch has already started. A multi-modal approach for sealing 195 Kms. of Jammu International Border at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.00 crores has also been planned. International border between India and Nepal is open border and no passport & visa are required by the citizens of the two countries to travel across the International border. However, measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms for developing cooperation on security measures and to address these concerns. Both sides have agreed to take well coordinated measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal to prevent misuse of the open Indo-Nepal border. Policing on Indo-Nepal border has also been intensified and strengthened.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

†2174. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing pension and other facilities to freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the number of freedom fighters, state-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they are provided with gas connection and first class travelling facility in trains alongwith an attendant;

(d) in what manner these freedom fighters are being identified;

(e) what is the process of identification in such cases; and

(f) the measures being taken by Government to prevent the misuse of the said facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Central Government is providing pension and other facilities to those freedom fighters who fulfill the eligibility laid down by it.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.